

# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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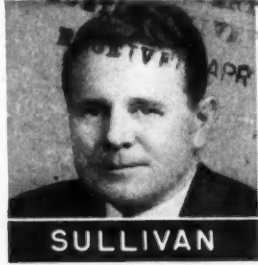
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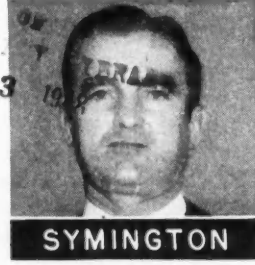
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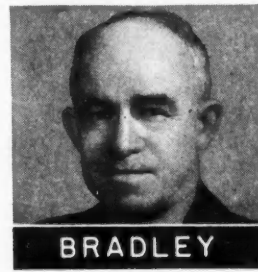
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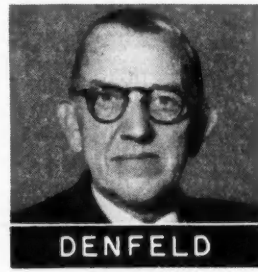
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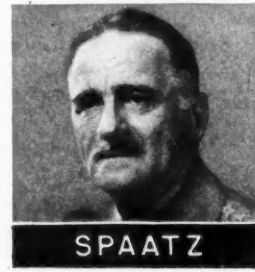
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SPAATZ

**NATIONAL DEFENSE LEADERS.** At the left is James Forrestal, Secretary of National Defense. On the top row, left to right, are: Secretaries Kenneth Royall of the Army, John L. Sullivan of the Navy, and Stuart Symington of the Air Force. On the bottom row, left to right are: General Omar Bradley, Army Chief of Staff; Admiral Louis Denfield, Chief of Naval Operations; and General Carl Spaatz, Air Force Chief of Staff.

## U. S. Debates Military Program

**Armed Strength Is Greatly Reduced from War-time Peak. Present Crisis Forces Consideration of Need for Increasing Size of Military Machine**

WHEN the war ended nearly three years ago, the United States had the mightiest fighting machine the world had ever seen. It possessed an Army of 6,000,000 men, a Navy manned by a personnel of 3,389,000, plus an Air Force of 2,411,000 men and 80,000 planes.

As soon as the fighting ceased America did what it has always done after winning a war—it began the demobilization of its military forces. People of this country thought that other nations would do the same thing. They thought that the huge armies, navies, and air forces of the world would everywhere be reduced. They had confidence in the newly organized United Nations, which was expected to gain strength until it could put down aggressors and guarantee security to peace-loving nations.

Since the government and the people held these beliefs, it was natural that they should have decided to cut down the armed forces. The process of demobilization was hastened by the anxiety of Americans everywhere to bring the boys home and to get them out of uniform. The result was a hasty breaking up of our armed forces.

How far this work of demobilization went can be illustrated by certain figures. The Army has dwindled from the wartime peak of 6,000,000 men to 550,000. It is less than a tenth what it was about three years ago. This relatively small force is scattered over the face of the earth. About 275,000 of our soldiers are in the United States. The rest are in Germany, Austria, Korea, Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, and islands of the Pacific.

The Navy has a total of 552,000 in uniform, compared with 3,389,000 when the war ended.

Our Air Force no longer has anything like the wartime peak of 2,411,

000 men. Instead it has about 360,000. It has less than a third as many planes as it was operating when the war ended, and half of these are in storage. The factories which were building great numbers of planes of all descriptions during the war have now been turned back largely to peacetime uses, and last year they manufactured only 1,800 planes.

There is nothing so remarkable about our decision to cut down our armaments drastically after the war ended. Nations do not ordinarily remain on a war footing during periods of peace, and it was scarcely to be expected that the United States, after the fighting ceased, would maintain its

armed services at the wartime peak.

The situation has been complicated during the last three years, however, by the fact that the peace which followed the war has been so uneasy and uncertain. The fighting had scarcely stopped before bad feeling developed and grew between the United States and Russia. Fear and suspicion have now reached the point at which war, though not inevitable, has become a definite possibility. Most Americans feel strongly that Russia is following a program of aggression; that she is placing country after country under her control, and that there is great danger of her extending her power

(Concluded on page 2)

## Poise in a Time of Danger

By Walter E. Myer

WE are living through days which are both dramatic and dangerous. We are reminded of the possibility of war every time we read a newspaper or listen to the radio. Some of the reports, of course, are exaggerated. Many of the predictions have little of fact upon which to stand.

When allowance is made, however, for heedless cries of alarm and for sensationalism in the news, the fact remains that war, though by no means a certainty, is at least a possibility. It is also true that war, if it comes, may be far more destructive than anything we have known in the past, and that it may bring tragedy to most of the families of the nation.

One who faces the facts candidly cannot escape extreme uneasiness. Many people are beset by dread and fear, which cast a cloud upon their lives and deprive them of any chance for peace of mind.

There are those who seek to avoid

these happiness-devouring fears. They undertake to get away from the war alarms—at least temporarily—by ignoring the newspaper stories and the radio reports. They consciously dismiss the unpleasant facts relative to the international situation from their minds and seek satisfaction in their own personal affairs.

It seems to me that these people are making a mistake. They are dodging their responsibilities as citizens of a democracy. It is their duty to know what is going on, and to use their influence for the wisest of all possible courses of action. It may seem that there is very little that the individual can do about the dangers we face today, but each one has a certain amount of influence over public opinion, which has much to do with the daily decisions of our government.

Here is another fact which must not be neglected: It is possible that we may live for a number of years in a state

## Census Study of Our Population

**Present Rate of Growth Not Expected to Continue for Very Long Period**

AMERICA has always been a country of rapidly growing population. Our numbers have shot upward during the period of our national history from about 4 million to 145 million.

During the early days, families were large and this alone would have accounted for rapid population growth, but in addition to this natural increase, there were great waves of immigration from Europe. Hence we have experienced more than a century and a half of such rapidly growing population as the world has seldom seen.

During recent years the rate of population increase has fallen off. For years families have been smaller than they were early in our history. Furthermore, during the 1920's, legislation was enacted which practically stopped the flow of immigration to the United States. Despite these two developments, population has continued to increase, but at a slower rate. Before the war, it was commonly believed that our country's population would soon cease to grow.

During and after the war, however, there was an increase in the birth rate—families tended to become larger and population continued to increase. Most students of the subject think that the leveling off in numbers has merely been postponed; and that, within a quarter of a century or so, the population growth will cease.

A report which has been published

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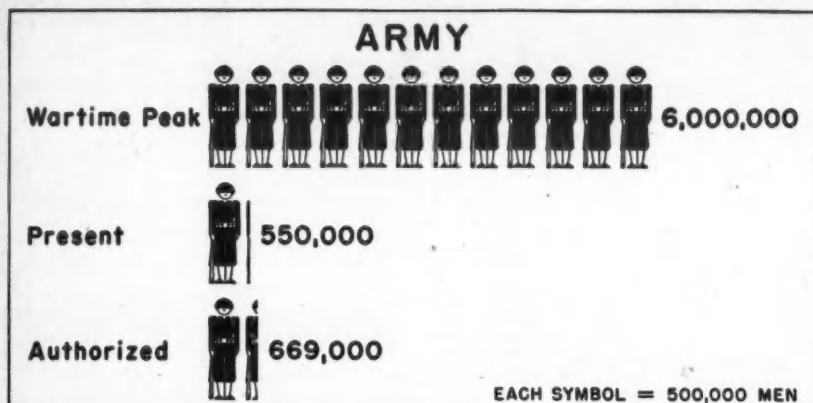
Walter E. Myer

of peace which is, at the same time, a state of threatened war. Students now in the schools should, therefore, be laying foundations today for the political wisdom they will need to exercise during the years to come.

One can do his civic duty, not by ignoring the grave problems of the hour, but by giving these issues full attention. Do what you can each day toward understanding the problems we face.

But after you have given as much time as you can spare to an honest and unprejudiced study of problems of national and international policy, turn to something else. Do not brood over the threatening clouds. There is a good chance that they may pass over, so do not completely spoil the enjoyment of the present by anticipating terrors which may never reach us.





CHARTS on this page show our armed strength today, and the maximum strength reached during World War II.

## Military Plans

(Concluded from page 1)

and influence so far that she will menace the safety of our own country.

The question has naturally arisen, therefore, as to whether we can safely be satisfied with armed forces sufficient merely for a period of peace. Again and again the insistent question comes: Is this really a period of lasting peace, or are the happenings of the day a prelude to war?

All sensible Americans hope that war with Russia can be averted, and possibly it can. If, however, Russia should attack the United States at any one of a dozen danger spots in the world and should provoke a war, the United States would be at a serious disadvantage until its fighting power were restored—and it takes time to rebuild a demobilized Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Such are the facts which impress those who today are calling for increased armaments. Such facts influenced President Truman to go recently before Congress with a rearmament program. The President, in this address, did not cover the whole field of rearmament. He did not undertake to specify how much money should be appropriated for the various armed services. He gave his attention chiefly to two recommendations.

One of them was for the return of selective service. Under this plan, men of certain specified age groups would be required to register and, as needed, would be drafted into the armed forces.

Although a selective service plan has not yet been decided upon in detail, it is generally believed that the draft would apply to the 3,000,000 men who are between the ages of 19 and 25, inclusive. War veterans would not be taken, at least not unless the country should go to war. From 3,000,000 men between the ages of 19 and 25, the armed forces would probably select about 220,000, which would probably meet their immediate needs.

The other presidential recommendation was for universal military training. This program would apply to young men between the ages of 18 and 20. They would not be in the regular armed forces but would be required to take six months of military training, after which they would spend an additional half year in some special field of training.

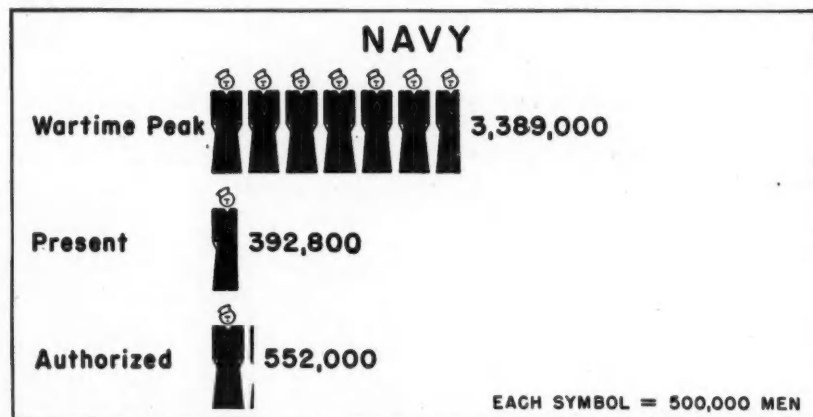
Congress is now studying the President's program. In addition it is listening to arguments prepared by the National Defense leaders. It is thought that the program which is being developed by the National Defense officials will call for an increase of 4 bil-

lion dollars for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

This money, if granted, will be available during the period from July 1, 1948 to June 30, 1949. It had been planned that for this period the armed forces would have about 11 billion dollars to spend. The present plan is to increase this amount to 15 billion dollars.

It is natural and understandable that a big issue, such as rearmament, should produce controversy. As a matter of fact, several definite points of view are represented in the discussion of the program.

Certain Americans do not agree with President Truman and military officials that we need to expand our



Army, Navy and Air Force on a large scale. Here is the gist of their arguments:

"The United States should not at this time feverishly prepare for war. If we start rebuilding on a great scale, other nations will do the same. Russia and her satellites, in particular, will try to keep pace with us. This competition will result in an armament race, and such a race practically always leads to war.

"If we wish peace and security, we should not prepare singlehandedly for war with Russia or any other nation. Instead we should maintain our armed forces at a reasonable level—without any sudden spurt in building—and, at the same time, we should work untiringly for peace through the strengthening of the United Nations.

"If we should act as if the United Nations did not exist, other nations will do likewise, and that great organization for peace, from which so much has been expected, will collapse as the League of Nations did."

In reply to this argument, advocates of large-scale armament increases argue that regardless of any efforts we might make, the United Nations, for some time, will be without a police force to back up its decisions. Russia is not at all likely to agree to such a force. The UN, therefore, will be too weak to protect us or any other nation.

The only safe course for the United States to follow in this period of possible war is to prepare for self defense.

The opponents of heavy armament increases appear to be in a minority. In Congress and elsewhere the majority appears to be on the side of the strengthening of our armed forces. Among the advocates of immediate rearmament, however, there is a sharp difference of opinion.

On the one hand we find those who lay great stress upon conscription and universal military training. On the opposite side are those who think that the wars of the future will be quickly decided in the air and through the use of atomic bombs and other products of modern science.

Advocates of conscription and universal military training argue as follows: "We must, in any future war, lean heavily upon the air forces. There is no question of that. But it takes considerable numbers of men to operate air warfare, and it is desirable that the men be on hand when needed. Conscription and universal military training will create a pool of manpower from which the Air Force, as well as the Army and Navy, may draw.

"We cannot depend upon the Air Force alone to win a war. After the bombers have done their work, ground forces must move in, as they did in the last war, to give the decisive blow and to police the enemy after his defeat. The wars of the future, as in

devices to be used in the winning of a modern war. We need these things much more than we need huge forces of inadequately trained men, such as universal military training would give us.

These conflicting arguments on national defense will soon resound in the halls of Congress, and they will be widely discussed by American citizens. Present indications are that the heads of our armed forces will recommend that about half the increase in money appropriated for the coming year will go to the Air Force. The rest will be available for the Army and the Navy.

## Science News

**A** SYNTHETIC drug called "Myanesin," developed by British scientists, will be given to persons recovering from polio. The drug helps to relax muscles which have been impaired by the disease, and to make treatment less painful. People suffering from arthritis will also benefit from the new drug.

★ ★ ★

Scientists at Harvard University have found a way to "fingerprint" minerals by X-ray. Each mineral has a different appearance when "photographed," so that a scientist is able to identify it in much the same way that a person is identified by fingerprints. So far, about 1,500 minerals have been X-rayed. This permits rapid identification of an unknown mineral.

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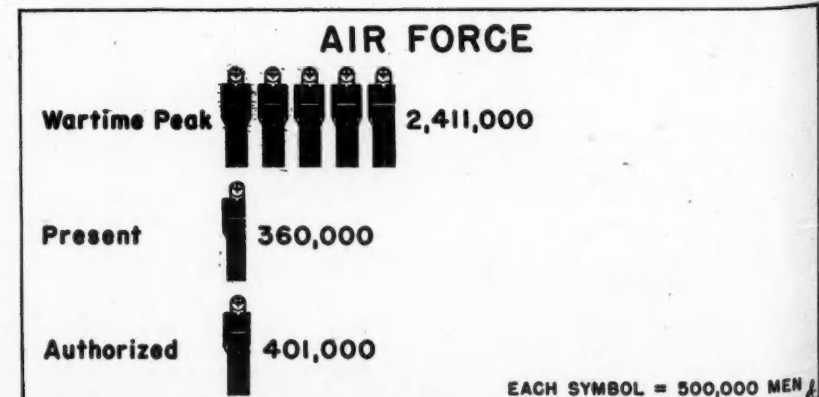
The United States Office of Technical Services is selling a number of German films describing Germany's wartime technical developments. Such subjects as the manufacture of synthetic fuels, and new ways of processing aluminum are covered in the films. These pictures may be purchased by companies interested in the processes described.

★ ★ ★

A specialist in color vision at the Kodak Research Laboratories states that the human eye, unaided, can recognize 17,000 different colors, tints, and shades.

★ ★ ★

An observatory at Greenwich, England, has been the source of the world's time and navigation signals ever since the 17th century. Recently, however, the smoke and dust from London have interfered with the accuracy of the observations. It has been decided, therefore, to move the observatory to a new site, 55 miles from Greenwich. About five years will be required to move all the instruments.







IS HE about to break out again?

CARMACK IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

## Fact and Opinion Digest

(The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

*How near is war? By what steps can we avoid it? The Communist seizure of Czechoslovakia, Russian pressure upon Finland, and the heated election campaign between Italian Communists and non-Communists emphasize the importance of these questions. Quoted and summarized below are a number of differing views and comments on the struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union.*

*Joseph and Stewart Alsop, columnists.* The atmosphere in Washington today is no longer a postwar atmosphere. It is, to put it bluntly, a pre-war atmosphere. That is not to say that war with the Soviet Union is inevitable. Yet it is now universally admitted that war within the next few months is possible. Some sort of showdown is on the way.

The showdown may come anywhere around the vast Soviet perimeter, and at any time. Yet most observers believe that it is most likely to come in Italy, soon after the Italian elections April 18.

If the Communists in that country get few votes, they may try to disrupt Italy with strikes, riots, or even civil war. If they get a large bloc of votes, though not a majority, they will demand some important posts in the Italian cabinet. If given such positions, they will build up their power and then try to seize the government as was done in Czechoslovakia. If the Communists win a clear majority and proceed to take control of the government, non-Communists might resist them and bring on a civil war.

Our government and Russia probably would send aid to the opposing forces if a conflict were to break out in Italy. Thus a world war could develop.

Among most of the experts it is still believed that the Soviet leaders do not want war. But the clear danger exists that the Soviets will blunder into a conflict simply because they do not think we would fight to keep western Europe from coming under domina-

tion of the Kremlin. President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall are trying to prevent war by "shrieking in Stalin's ear" that we are determined to stop communist aggression. By demonstrating strength and unity, we may be able to convince Russia that she cannot safely make further advances.

*Max Lerner in PM.* President Truman's recent address to Congress was a call for the mobilization of war manpower. The speech did not, however, reveal any evidence that there is grave danger of war.

What has happened to cause our present state of alarm? The Communist seizure of Czechoslovakia has not changed the actual distribution of power in the world, since Czechoslovakia was already in the Russian sphere of influence. About the same is true with respect to Soviet pressure on Finland.

The Greek civil war is not new. As for Italy, the election is still to come. It seems silly to mobilize the American nation because of doubts about the outcome of an election in Italy.

What other reasons can be offered for American war mobilization now? An important one is the contention that the only act which will impress the Russians is a show of force. Military mobilization, however, can only make both sides more bitter and more embattled, and bring war closer.

We should stop the war talk and start to talk and think of peace. We should recognize that American stubbornness, as well as Russian, is to blame for present disagreements between the two nations. Our efforts should be directed toward a general all-round peace settlement.

*Walter Lippmann, columnist.* The seizure of power in Czechoslovakia and the incorporation of Finland within the Soviet military sphere must be regarded as strategic actions, planned by military men, in anticipation of war. For Czechoslovakia and Finland were already safely within the Russian diplomatic orbit, but from the Soviet point of view they were not within the Russian military system.

Suppression of the democratic liberty and national independence of the Czechs must be taken to mean that, in the minds of the rulers of Russia, military considerations now have priority. The demands upon Finland likewise may be regarded as evidence that the Kremlin expects war.

It is still possible that war will be avoided. Nevertheless, the struggle between America and Russia is now a race for strategic positions, for allies, and for the development of military power. The game is no longer being played with tokens, with influence, with gestures, and with ideas. It will have to be played with real power, with weapons that have been manufactured, with reserves that have been trained and can be mobilized, with military alliances, and on ground that is held firmly and securely.

Although the United States has great industrial strength, she has let her military power dwindle. Considerable time will be required for the building of a strong armed force. Russia is making use of this situation. She feels that we are not now able to challenge her advances.

In order to deal successfully with Russia we must realize that our struggle with that nation is now a fight for military advantage. Our government should determine carefully the points which we cannot safely yield—the areas which, for our security, must not become Soviet-dominated—and it should build up American military strength so Moscow will know that we can defend those positions.

*Washington Post, editorial comment.* It is not likely that the Soviet Union intends to make war. Stalin wants the fruits of a war of conquest, but would shrink and back away from a collision with our country. The Soviet Union, which suffered unbelievable human and property destruction in the fight with Germany, is too weak to sustain war with the United States. She will, though, go as far as she dares—take as much as she thinks we will permit her to take.

If these assumptions are correct, then a premium is put on boldness and resolution in American policy. To be strong and united at home is essential, but not enough. Moscow must be left in no doubt about American intentions. We must build a powerful military force. The western European countries must be brought into a defense union with the United States.

At this crucial stage of Soviet success, cold war requires as much power and alertness as we can muster. It calls for the same preparedness as a shooting war, plus political statesmanship.

Senators and representatives who wanted the special taxes on oleomargarine cut have lost their battle. Bills for reducing these taxes were recently killed by a committee in Congress.

In recent weeks, many Americans have written to Italian friends and relatives, urging them not to vote for Communist candidates in elections this month. Another group of Americans are broadcasting to Italy daily over a private station, urging support of democracy.

The Secretary of National Defense now has an official flag. Made of blue silk, it has a star in each of the four corners and an American bald eagle in the center.

## Personality

**P**RESIDENT HARRY TRUMAN is running into more opposition than had been generally expected in his bid to be his party's candidate for the Presidency in the November election. The continuing revolt of southern Democrats over Mr. Truman's civil rights proposals indicates that he may have a fight on his hands at the nominating convention.

However, the President's supporters point out that Mr. Truman has a great deal of "bounce." When his fortunes seem to be lowest, he has repeatedly sprung back stronger than ever. They are confident that he will be the Democratic choice to represent that party in the Presidential race.

The son of a cattle dealer, Harry Truman was born in Missouri in 1884. As a boy he read a large number of the books in the public library at Independence. Since he wore glasses, he was never very active in athletics.

After finishing high school, he worked at a variety of jobs—in a newspaper mailing room, on a railroad construction project, and in a Kansas City bank. In 1906 Mr. Truman returned to his country home, and for the next 10 years made his living as a farmer. Meanwhile he was active in the National Guard and, in a small way, in local Democratic politics.



Truman

In World War I Mr. Truman served in France as captain of a field artillery battery. After the war he married and set up a clothing store with a friend in Kansas City. Generally unfavorable business conditions at the time contributed to the failure of this venture. In 1922, Mr. Truman ran for county judge and was elected. Despite its name, the job had nothing to do with law or the courts, but was concerned with overseeing the county's roads, public buildings, and other such projects.

In 1926, Mr. Truman became presiding judge of the Jackson County Court. Eight years later he was elected to the U. S. Senate.

Reelected in 1940, Harry Truman came into national prominence as chairman of a special committee investigating war contracts. The committee successfully exposed waste in many war construction projects.

Then, in 1944, Mr. Truman became Franklin Roosevelt's running mate and was elected Vice President. When Roosevelt died the following April, Harry Truman succeeded him.

His supporters contend that he has proved to be an able, courageous leader. His forceful foreign policy, they say, may prevent another war.

Opponents of President Truman maintain that he has been unable to unite his own party, let alone the nation as a whole.

The President likes to play the piano and enjoys seeing baseball and football games. He keeps in excellent physical condition through early morning walks, and swims in the White House pool. He and Mrs. Truman have one daughter, Margaret.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.



# The Story of the Week

## Future of Trieste?

The 300-square-mile area of Europe known as the "Free Territory of Trieste" is once again a center of controversy in the struggle between Russia and the western nations. This small region, situated along the border separating Italy and Yugoslavia, is coveted by both these countries. Russia has wanted Trieste to be part of Communist Yugoslavia, while the United States and Britain have wanted it either under UN or Italian control.

Until the end of World War II, the Adriatic port city of Trieste and the surrounding area known as Venezia Giulia belonged to Italy. In the peace settlement, most of Venezia Giulia was turned over to Yugoslavia, but the city of Trieste and a slice of nearby rural land became "Free Territory," belonging to no country.

This Free Territory is supposed to be under the supervision of the United Nations Security Council. Actually, however, the northern part, including the port city, is controlled by British and American occupation forces—10,000 well-equipped soldiers. The southern portion is occupied by Yugoslav troops. The United States charges that the southern section has been practically "incorporated into Yugoslavia."

When Britain, France, Russia, and the United States agreed to make Trieste a Free Territory, they also decided that, after the UN Security Council selected a governor for the area, occupation troops would leave. But it seems unlikely that United Nations supervision can be put into effect.

Failure of the plan for UN control was the main reason which Britain, France, and the United States gave for the proposal that the Trieste region be returned to Italy.

This proposal, which caused great excitement and joy among most of the Italian people, was a well-timed blow against communism. It is expected to help anti-Communist parties in the Italian election on April 18.

Communists are making a strong bid for power in Italy. If they win success in the election, communism will have taken an important step westward and will have obtained another strategic foothold on the shore of the Mediterranean.



CITY OF TRIESTE, again a center of international controversy

By making the return of Trieste an important issue, America and the other western countries have put Italian Communists in a difficult spot. Communists in Italy, of course, work closely with those in Russia and Yugoslavia. Their popularity will decline sharply if Russia and Yugoslavia try to block the return of Trieste.

Russia and Yugoslavia are trying hard to deal with the Trieste situation so as not to weaken the communist cause in the Italian elections this month. The Yugoslavs, therefore, may come through with some kind of a proposal in an effort to please the Italians. But any action they may take is not expected to overcome the advantage gained by the non-Communist parties in Italy as a result of the American-French-British proposal to give Trieste back to the people of Italy.

The Free Territory of Trieste has about 365,000 people. Most of those living in the port city are Italians, but in rural areas there are large numbers of Yugoslavs.

## Atomic Power's Progress

How long will it be before we have atomic power to drive our machinery and heat our buildings? Not for 10 years at least, according to the Atomic Energy Commission, and it will probably be 20 years before any consider-

able part of our power supply is derived from atomic energy.

Many problems must still be solved, says Commission Chairman David Lilienthal. For example, materials must be devised which will withstand the high temperatures of atomic power plants. Large stockpiles of uranium and plutonium must be accumulated. Adequate safeguards must be devised to protect workers from the effects of radiation.

Actually, atomic power could be harnessed on a small-scale, "show-room" basis within a year or two to light bulbs and drive motors, Mr. Lilienthal says. But before there will be any large-scale, commercial use of power from atomic energy, scientists and technicians have "a long, hard grind" before them.

## Miners' Walk-out

The recent coal miners' walk-out is the fourth work stoppage staged by John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, since the end of the war. The first came in the fall of 1945. Over 1,000 mines were closed and more than 200,000 miners were out before the strike was ended to Lewis' satisfaction.

The second strike came in the spring of 1946 and lasted 59 days. The miners received an increase in wages of about 18 cents an hour. A welfare and retirement fund was set up.

In the late fall of 1946, Lewis called out his miners in a strike which lasted for about two weeks. The government was then in charge of the mines, and it obtained a court order to stop the strike until the question was decided whether or not the miners had a right to engage in a walk-out at that time. Mr. Lewis "defied" the court order and was fined \$10,000. His union was also fined.

Last July a new contract was signed in which the miners received pay raises of about 44 cents an hour. Payments of the mine operators into the miners' welfare fund were doubled.

A dispute over how the welfare fund shall be used brought about the latest walk-out. Mr. Lewis wants all miners reaching the age of 60 and having 20 years' service to receive pensions of \$100 a month. The operators do not feel that the industry can support such "large" pensions.

As these lines are being written a group of government investigators, after having made a firsthand study, are about ready to present a report to President Truman. Their findings and recommendations will probably be in his hands before this paper reaches its readers.

If the miners have not returned to the pits by the time the report is made, the President can, after he receives it, take action to force them to go back to work—at least temporarily. The government, under the Taft-Hartley labor law, can obtain a court order requiring the miners to dig coal for the next 80 days. Such a court order would provide severe punishment if the miners disobeyed the ruling to work.

If the 80-day "cooling off" period is declared, various branches of the government will seek to settle the dispute. If they fail, the President can, at the end of the 80-day waiting period, turn the whole matter over to Congress for action.

## Palestine Dilemma

The Palestine situation is becoming more and more tangled. The action of the United States two weeks ago in withdrawing, for the time being, its support from the partition plan and in recommending a temporary UN trusteeship for the Holy Land has raised further problems. Whether these problems can be more easily solved than those connected with the partition plan will soon be known.



MARY SEICHI, of Hawaii, opens letters received from U. S. students in answer to her request for opinions on statehood for the islands. Miss Seichi made her request in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER and its associated publication, the Weekly News Review. She says letters have been overwhelmingly in favor of admitting Hawaii to the union.

In his announcement to the UN Security Council that our government had decided against the establishment of separate Jewish and Arab states at this time, U. S. Delegate Warren Austin asked that a special session of the General Assembly be called to reconsider the Palestine question. Until a permanent decision can be made, he recommended that Palestine be managed as a trusteeship under the supervision of the United Nations. Presumably the trusteeship would go into effect by May 15 when the British intend to give up their control and move out all their troops.

Since the United States was one of the foremost backers of the partition plan last November, Mr. Austin's an-



AS A STAGE PLAY, "I Remember Mama" had a long and successful run in New York. Now, as a movie, it will provide top-rank entertainment for people in all parts of the country. Edgar Bergen plays a new and surprising role in this film.





SCENE IN JAIPUR, a city in Rajputana, which is now a part of Hindu India

nouncement came as a surprise to most observers. People wondered why this country had changed its mind on the Palestine issue.

According to Mr. Austin, the reason for the U. S. reversal of policy was that the partition plan could not be carried out peacefully at this time. Another possible reason, widely mentioned by journalists and commentators, is the fear of American officials that enforcement of the partition plan now might involve bringing Russian troops into the Near East. Our government, it is said, wishes at any cost to prevent the Soviet Army from getting a foothold in that strategic area.

Russia and some other nations are opposed to any change in the partition plan, and the matter will have to be threshed out in the United Nations. The Jews are bitterly opposed to trusteeship and charge that the United States has yielded to Arab violence.

Meanwhile bitter fighting continues in the Holy Land. More than 1,700 people have been killed there since the partition plan was announced last November.

### Schools Can Help

Ten days from now—on April 15—our government is to launch the largest peacetime loan campaign ever started. From the middle of April until June 30 tens of thousands of patriotic volunteers will ask their friends and neighbors to buy more United States savings bonds. Schools all over the nation will take a leading part in the drive which is to be known as the Security Loan Campaign.

Although no national goal has been set, the government wants to raise as large a sum as possible. The huge expenditures contemplated under the European Recovery Program and the possibility of a further outlay for national defense makes it imperative that our country have adequate resources to fall back on. At the same time, the purchase of government bonds is a good way for individuals to save for the future.

Many schools are expected to mark the opening of the drive with special

Thrift Day ceremonies. Students will be given folders which will explain the program to their parents, and will be asked to buy savings stamps which may be exchanged later for bonds.

### Hemisphere Conference

Delegates from 21 American nations are now meeting in Bogota, Colombia. The sessions, which began last Tuesday, March 30, are expected to last for about six weeks. During that time, the Americas will seek ways to trade more products with one another and to conduct other business affairs more smoothly. They also are discussing how much help the rest of the Western Hemisphere will be able to give us in carrying out the European Recovery Program.

Although the American nations are working chiefly on business problems, they are keeping an eye on a quarrel within the Western Hemisphere. It is the civil war in Costa Rica, tiny Central American nation.

Costa Rica has been troubled with strife ever since the national elections of February 8. After the result was announced, a number of Costa Ricans claimed that the votes were not correctly counted. They formed armed bands and have been trying to seize control of the government.

The government says the rebels are getting help from a nearby Central American nation. Therefore, the Costa Rican government has asked for armed help from still other Central American countries. It is feared that the Costa Rican election dispute may become a Central American war, with the nations there lining up to take sides in the fighting.

### Presidential Primaries

Tomorrow—April 6—Wisconsin and New York will hold their presidential primary elections. In those states, Republicans and Democrats will go to the polls to express their preferences for candidates to represent their parties in the presidential election.

The Republican primary in Wisconsin is attracting particular attention, because three of the leading

Republican candidates—Dewey, MacArthur, and Stassen—are competing. Each candidate wants to make a good showing. Not only does he want the backing of Wisconsin's delegates at the Republican nominating convention in Philadelphia next summer, but he also knows that a clear-cut victory in tomorrow's balloting will increase his prestige with voters in other states.

The outcome of a single state primary such as the one in Wisconsin is not likely either to "make" or "break" a candidate when the nominating conventions take place. For example, Mr. Taft, another leading Republican candidate, has not even entered the Wisconsin primary. However, if a candidate who has entered makes a particularly weak showing, it may hurt his reputation as a vote-getter and do considerable harm to his chances of winning the nomination.

In both Wisconsin and New York, President Truman is the only candidate among the Democrats. In New York Governor Dewey is the single Republican candidate. Other Republicans have not entered the New York primary because they feel that Mr. Dewey is so popular among Republicans in his own state that he is sure to win.

In the next two months about a dozen states will hold presidential primaries. The outcome of these elections will not necessarily determine who the opposing candidates will be, but the showings made by various leaders will help to influence the convention delegates.

### U. S. Military Leaders

Here are brief sketches of the men who are the top leaders of the nation's armed forces.

**James V. Forrestal**, Secretary of Defense, is the civilian director of all our military services, outranked only by the President. A highly successful businessman in his native state of New York until the outbreak of World War II, he has been in government service ever since.

**Kenneth C. Royall**, Secretary of the Army, is the Army's civilian boss. Along with Secretary of the Navy Sullivan and Secretary of the Air Force Symington, he serves directly

under Forrestal. Royall is a native of North Carolina and a lawyer by profession.

**John L. Sullivan**, Secretary of the Navy, was first connected with the Navy during World War I. After graduating from college, he became a lawyer. He has served the government in the Treasury and Navy Departments.

**Stuart Symington**, Secretary of the Air Force, is the first director of our independent Air Force. At 46, he is the youngest of our defense officials, yet can boast of outstanding careers in both business and government. He has been a public official since 1941.

**General Omar Bradley**, Army Chief of Staff, is the top military officer in the Army. A West Point graduate, he was a fighting general during World War II. Before he was named to his present job, he was director of the Veterans Administration.

**Admiral Louis Denfeld**, Chief of Naval Operations, has a long record of fleet service which serves him well as military head of the Navy. An Annapolis man, he has had duty on battleships, destroyers, and submarines, and saw Atlantic and Pacific action during World War II.

**General Carl Spaatz**, Air Chief of Staff, is a West Pointer, and has been an air-minded soldier for more than 30 years. A veteran of air battles of World Wars I and II, Spaatz is one of the most popular and capable men in military aviation today.

### Saving Fish and Wildlife

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service now has a "seagoing laboratory" to carry out research in the North Atlantic. A former Coast Guard cutter—*Albatross III*—was equipped to make firsthand studies on the fishing grounds off New England. Among other things it will try to find out how large a catch may be taken each year from the North Atlantic banks without endangering the supply of fish for the future.

Under the control of the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service is one of our leading conservation agencies. It enforces federal laws which protect fish and game and maintains about 90 fish hatcheries and almost 300 wildlife refuges.

## SMILES

A very old man says he has lived through 50 "crime drives" and so has crime.

★ ★ ★

A business man says he intends to build an ice-skating rink that will make people sit up. It's an original idea, anyway.

★ ★ ★

A prominent writer says it is a disgrace to die rich. The tax collectors have saved a number of persons from this fate.

★ ★ ★

Wish scientists would lay off atomic energy for a while, and explain why a telephone-receiver cord persists in twisting up in 40 knots.

★ ★ ★

Funny, how those out of office know how well to solve the nation's problems.

★ ★ ★

One political candidate says he is going to appeal only to "thinkers." He must not want to be elected.

A mouse that sings like a canary has appeared in a western Massachusetts home. It will be all the same to the cat.

★ ★ ★

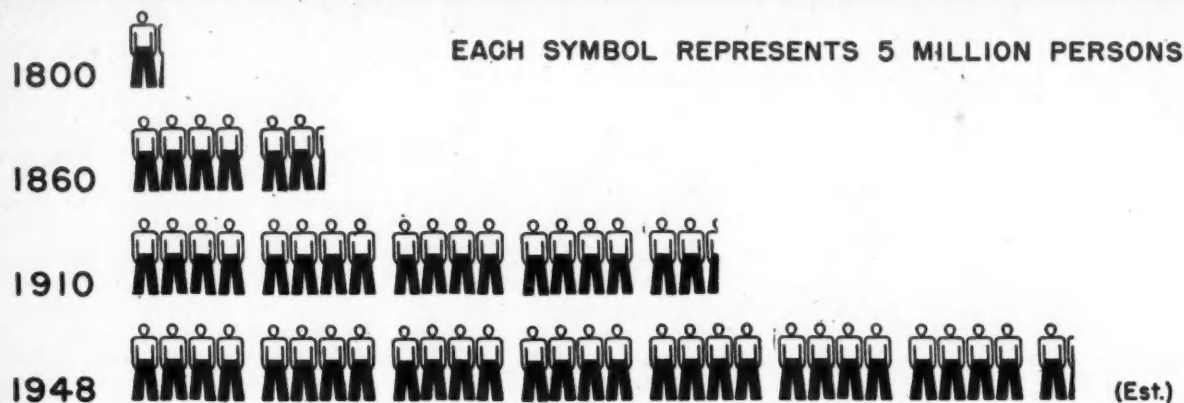
A jail warden says that college men make good prisoners. Here is another clinching argument for higher education.



"SO I SAID, 'Oh, yeah!' and he said, 'Oh, yeah!' and before I could say 'Oh, yeah!' again, he let me have it."



## GROWTH OF U.S. POPULATION



## Population

(Concluded from page 1)

by the United States Bureau of the Census confirms this view. Some of the report's facts, speculations, and conclusions are both interesting and important. They include the following:

The population of the United States, now 145 million, will continue to grow until about 1975. By that time it will be approximately 166 million, which is 21 million above the present level. This will probably be our population peak. After 1975 our numbers will increase very slowly, if at all, and they may actually decline after about the year 2000.

Not only will our population decline or cease to grow during the latter part of this century, but the average age of the people will be higher.

Families are smaller than they formerly were. There are fewer children. On the other hand, the number of elderly people tends to increase, since so many diseases of youth have been conquered.

This means that the population consists of more people who have grown old. One hundred years ago there were, in an average group of 100 people, about 15 children under 5 years of age. In such a group there were only 3 or 4 men and women over 65. Now, in an average group of 100, there are only 9 children under 5 and there are 7 over 65. By 1975 it is estimated that, in an ordinary group of 100, there will be only 6 children under 5 years of age and 11 men and women over 65.

## Effects of Change

But what difference does it make whether the total population is going up or down? What does it matter whether the average age of all the people is rising or falling? The Census Bureau report lists a number of important changes which we may expect as a result of shifting population trends.

The schools always feel the effects of population trends quickly. Here is an illustration: The number of children born during the years 1945 to 1947 was far above average.

When these children reach the age of 6 years they will be ready for the first grade, and since there will be so many of them, the first-grade classrooms will be crowded. It is expected that in 1952, 3 million children will enter school for the first time. What this will mean can be better understood when we remember that in 1939, there were only 2 million first graders.

After a few years, the effect of this increased first-grade enrollment will

be felt in other grades. From 1958 to 1960, 3 million children who were first graders in 1952 will be ready for junior high school. The junior high schools will then be crowded, since they will have to provide for 50 per cent more pupils than they had last year. A little later the senior high schools will be similarly crowded.

The increases in school enrollment are likely, however, to be temporary. The Census Bureau statisticians believe that the birth rate, which was exceptionally high during the war and immediately thereafter, will fall again after a few years, and that, later on, the school enrollments will decline. Such probabilities as these will also affect future school plans.

The slowing down of population growth may deeply affect the economic condition of the country. The report of the Census Bureau examines the possibility that a leveling off of population may bring about a general decline in business prosperity. Here is the explanation given in the report:

"When the number of people in the country is rising rapidly it is necessary to prepare for the increase. New houses and apartments must be built; streets must be paved; factories, stores, and warehouses must be enlarged, or new ones erected; and much new machinery must be manufactured. These activities furnish jobs for a large number of people and tend to keep wages high. The result is a high level of productivity, employment, and prosperity.

"On the other hand, when population growth slows down, the result is just the opposite. Fewer workers are needed to supply the demands of a smaller population. The slackening of employment opportunities tends to lower wages and reduce the amount of money in the hands of consumers. Once such a cycle of events is started it can throw the national economy into a downward spiral."

It is by no means certain, however, that hard times will result from a slowing down of population growth. The nation may be prosperous even though population actually declines. If wages and incomes are kept on a high level, a smaller number of people will be able to purchase a large quantity of goods.

This big demand for goods could keep the wheels of industry moving and the country conceivably could be as prosperous as it is today, even though there were fewer inhabitants.

But even though a decline of population might not destroy prosperity, are there other effects which might be serious? In answer to this question, many people point to our international relations. They say that if America ceases to grow in population, its strength will decline.

## Illustration

As illustrations, France and England are frequently cited. These countries some time ago reached or approached a period of stationary population, and they have dwindled from the peak of their power to secondary positions among the nations of the world. What if population grows rapidly in Russia (as it is expected to do) and if, at the same time, it declines in the United States? Will Russia overtake us in military power?

These questions cannot be ignored, but they should be considered in a calm, rather than an alarmist, spirit. A nation's power and its greatness do not depend wholly upon population as is evidenced by China and India. Furthermore, wars of the future may depend even less on manpower than have foreign conflicts of the past.

If wars are fought with bombers, atomic weapons and modern scientific and mechanical instruments, it is possible that a nation relatively small in numbers could develop its science and its industries to such a point that

it could defeat large, massed armies.

We have now considered a few of the effects which may come from a declining population. But, then, how will the national life be influenced by the fact that in the America of the future there will be fewer children and relatively more elderly people?

The Census Bureau points to a number of possible changes. Its report declares, for example, that as the number of the aged increases, more charitable homes for old people must be provided. Furthermore, the demand for goods used by the aged will increase, while the demand for goods made for children will decline.

It is predicted that with the aging of the population the demand for apartments will increase. Many of the old folks will find them more convenient than separate houses.

Another result which may flow from the increasing number of older persons in our population is the trend toward conservatism. It is generally taken for granted that young people are more experimental than the aged. In business it is said that they are more daring. In politics they are more inclined to try new ideas and new political and economic programs.

Hence it is the general belief that the country will travel to a greater extent along customary paths when fewer of its citizens are young.

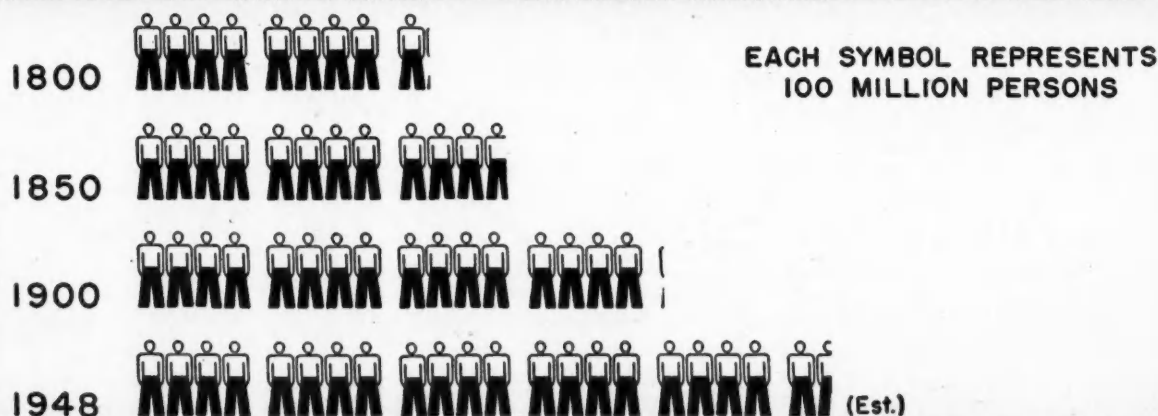
This idea of the experimentalism of youth and the conservatism of old age should, however, be examined with caution. A large proportion of the English people are old and yet, during recent years, they have adopted very drastic economic changes.

Perhaps the changes would have been even more rapid if a larger majority of the people had been young, but English experience suggests care in coming to sweeping conclusions about the effect of age on the disposition to make changes.

We can see in advance what some of the effects of a stationary or declining population may be. Other consequences cannot be foretold. The American people, knowing that there will be important population changes, will find it desirable to watch closely for all the effects.

By doing this, they can adjust themselves and the country to changing conditions and maintain high standards of living, whether population trends are up or down. They will have time for necessary adjustments, for the period of population decline is still far away. For 25 years or so, numbers are expected to increase, and, if we handle our problems wisely, and are permitted to live in peace, these years may be full of achievement and progress.

## WORLD POPULATION





# Problems of the Navajo Indians

Their Land Is Poor and They Lack Schools

FOR some time the people of this country have been acutely aware of impoverishment overseas, and of the need for European relief. Many have been less familiar with the sufferings of an unfortunate group here at home. The story of the Navajo Indians of the Southwest has been widely told during recent weeks, however. Emergency relief has been given and a long-range program for Navajo betterment is being considered.

The 60,000 members of the tribe live in parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. They occupy an area about as large as West Virginia. This is a vast region, offering nearly half a square mile of land per person. But most of it is arid desert and the whole area is overcrowded. The U. S. Department of Interior, which administers Indian affairs, estimates that this section could, at present, support comfortably only 20,000 people—a third as many as now inhabit it. Sheep and goats constitute the chief source of income for the growing Navajo tribe, but the land does not furnish grass for as many head of livestock as are needed.

Attempts to raise more animals than the region will support have already done considerable damage to vegetation and to the soil itself. "Navajo livestock in their desperate search for sustenance," says the Interior Department, "have climbed the steep, eroding slopes, destroyed the sparse clumps of grass, and trimmed the browse as high as they could reach."

## Vegetation Gone

"The vegetation which once checked the run-off is now gone. Torrential floods rush down the unprotected slopes with destructive fury, carving deep gullies all the way from the mountains to the major streams. At one place on the reservation, fading wagon tracks lead up to both vertical sides of a gully 70 feet deep and 300 feet wide."

Why do not some of these poor Navajos go elsewhere to earn a living? The answer is that very few are qualified to do so. Only a fifth of them can speak English. Only a third have ever gone to school. The promise made by the United States government in 1868, to provide adequate schools for the Navajos, has not been well kept.

Since these Indians cannot make a good living on the land that has been allotted to them, and are not trained for work elsewhere, they are suffering extreme poverty and misery. According to the U. S. Department of the Interior, the average Navajo family now has a yearly income of less than \$400.

"Closely related to the low average income," says the Interior Department, "are the unsatisfactory social conditions which prevail among the Navajos. The Navajo family lives in a hogan which is one room built of logs and mud without a floor or window. There are no sanitary facilities or modern conveniences. There is almost no furniture, seldom a stove or bed. Ventilation and heating are such as can be provided by a bonfire in the middle of the room and a hole at the top of the ceiling. The diet of the average Navajo is deficient and limited in variety, and malnutrition is widespread."



NAVAJO MOTHER and children. The Indians move from place to place on their reservation in search of grass for their flocks.

Last winter, to prevent starvation among the Indians of the Southwest, Congress provided money for emergency relief. Both Congress and the President asked the Interior Department to make a report on long-range needs of the Navajos. The report was made last month. It contained a request for a 90-million-dollar, 10-year program which, as the Marshall Plan is expected to do on a larger scale for Europe, would help the Indians to help themselves.

## For Improvements

Part of the money, if it is provided, will be used to make improvements so that the region now occupied by the Navajo tribe can furnish a good living for at least 35,000 people. Measures will be taken to stop soil erosion resulting from infrequent but torrential rains, and to restore vegetation on the pasture lands that have been damaged by excessive numbers of sheep and goats. Where enough water is available, irrigation systems will be constructed. The Indians will be helped to make use of their timber and mineral resources.

Twenty-five million dollars will be spent to improve existing schools and to provide additional ones, so that thousands of Navajos eventually will be qualified to obtain good jobs in new localities. Almost 5 million dollars will be used for badly-needed hospitals and other health facilities.

Twenty million dollars will be spent on the construction of roads and trails, so that Navajo families can more easily reach schools, hospitals, stores, and workshops.

Whether Congress will arrange for carrying out these plans remains to be seen. Nevertheless the conviction is growing throughout the nation that the Navajos have been seriously neglected, and that more attention must be given to their welfare.

Although the Navajos make up the

largest tribe in this country, their group is not the only one which is growing rapidly. In 1905 there were only about 270,000 of the "original Americans." Since that time they have increased, and there are now more than 400,000 in the 48 states and Alaska.

There is great variation in living conditions among the different tribes. The Hopi, whose Arizona reservation is surrounded by Navajo land, are to share in some of the benefits of the proposed Navajo aid measure. Contrasted with these less fortunate groups are the Osages of Oklahoma, many of whom became wealthy after oil was discovered on tribal lands. The Menominees of Wisconsin have a valuable forest and a big sawmill, and numerous other tribes operate prospering businesses on their reservations.

—By THOMAS K. MYER.

## Readers Say—

Many countries have very little to sell to other lands now. The United States is sending these nations supplies either as gifts or as loans. If we are to prosper through foreign trade, though, we must begin to exchange goods for goods as soon as other countries can manufacture enough to send us. Our nation is actually poorer if we send more products abroad than we bring in.

MARY ANN KORECKY,  
Clarkson, Nebraska.

★ ★ ★

Many leading men in the United States today have been saying that world government is the only pathway to peace. We must stop to think that when the type of government is to be chosen, two big powers, Russia and the United States, would definitely oppose each other. If world government were possible, it would be a boon to humanity, but the world is not yet ready to set aside petty differences for one common cause. Until it is, there is no chance for a successful world government.

EDDIE KINNEY,  
Williston, North Dakota.

★ ★ ★

I think world government could and would work if we all tried to back it. If we, as the people of a freedom-loving country, got behind this movement and pushed it, I think we could make other nations believe in world government. The 48 states of the United States get along. There is no reason why countries cannot do likewise.

JOAN SATHE,  
Williston, North Dakota.

★ ★ ★

I would like to challenge the letter from the Salem Academy English class, though it may be a bold move for one person. I was rather stunned that a whole class would oppose universal military training. Those who wrote that letter must have overlooked the military machine of Russia. They surely must know that neither Russia nor any other nation will respect a country it surpasses militarily. We are now the leaders in the world. To maintain that position of leadership, we must be able to back ideas with force.

TOM COLLINS,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

★ ★ ★

None of us know exactly what armaments Russia has. It may be wise to keep in mind, though, that her Communist program of expansion was started in 1917. They have been laying plans for conquest ever since. It is obvious, then, that we are up against something much more shrewd than we have ever faced in the past. We must prepare, therefore, to resist the completion of the Communist plan, if we are to keep ourselves free. Such resistance includes aid to countries now in great need, to prevent their being taken over by Russia.

MARIA BABAKIN,  
Schenectady, New York.

## Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. The exercises had a *salutary* effect. (a) surprising (b) healthful (c) lasting (d) undesirable.

2. The situation required *equanimity* (ē'kwuh-nīm'ī-ti) on his part. (a) knowledge (b) composure (c) strength (d) judgment.

3. *Conciliatory* (kon-sil'ī-ā-tō'rī) speeches were made by members of the opposition. (a) friendly (b) hostile (c) conservative (d) humorous.

4. The project had *transitory* (tran'sī-tō'rī) value. (a) temporary (b) transportation (c) enduring (d) questionable.

5. The speaker set forth an *audacious* (aw-day'shus) plan. (a) helpful (b) complete (c) daring (d) careless.

6. Nobody liked the *shrewish* (shroō'ish) old woman. (a) stingy and selfish (b) wealthy and wise (c) scolding and nagging.

7. His *vacillating* (vās'ī-lay-ting) manner did not inspire confidence. (a) casual (b) conceited (c) wavering (d) over-determined.

8. The *profundity* (prō-fun'dī-ti) of the man's remarks was commented on. (a) importance (b) poor taste (c) depth (d) danger.

9. His *prognostication* (prōg'nōs-tī-kay'shun) proved to be correct. (a) prophecy (b) information (c) interpretation (d) solution.



## Career for Tomorrow - - Watches, Jewelry

**J**OBS in the field of jewelry and watch manufacturing and repair may appeal to young men and women who can use their hands to perform minute operations, if they have excellent eyesight and a great deal of patience. In addition to these abilities, they must, of course, have a certain amount of artistic talent if they look forward to designing jewelry. While the jewelry and watch fields require similar natural aptitudes, the training and details of the two differ.

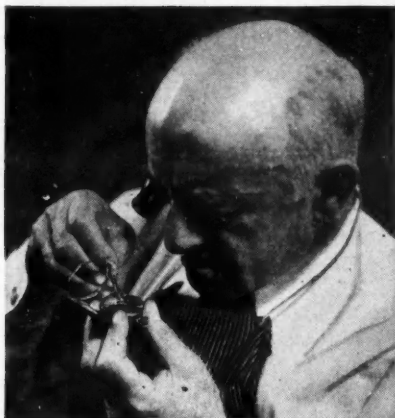
A few skilled workmen in the jewelry field work independently, designing and making individual pieces entirely by hand. Usually, however, even when they work on handmade items, these skilled men are employed in shops where each concentrates on one phase of making and finishing a piece of jewelry.

For instance, a designer plans the pins, bracelets, or brooches, and decides upon the materials and colors to be used. A mounter cuts the design from metal and shapes the article. Another worker, an enameler, specializes in applying enamel to the metal, if that is necessary; and still a fourth skilled workman, a setter, concentrates upon mounting the stones. In the plants that manufacture inexpensive pieces, most of this work is done by machine and few skilled employees are needed.

Watch manufacturing tends also to be a specialized industry. The steps in making a watch—and it is estimated that there are more than 3,000 of them—have been divided into four major processes, each performed by a different group of employees. First, there is the cutting of watch parts from metal. This job is done by machine operators. Next, there is the

task of finishing the parts, work that is done both by hand and with machinery. The third step, done by assemblers, consists of fitting the pieces together. Finally, the timers and finishers regulate the watches and put on all finishing touches. Each of these processes except the first requires a large amount of handwork of a very intricate nature.

Repairmen, either in the jewelry or



**WATCHMAKING** requires a steady hand and good eyes.

watch fields, must be able to perform all the steps necessary to making a completed item. Either the watchmaker or the jeweler may, at one time or another, have to cut parts for a damaged piece from metal and carry the job on through to completion. Repairmen may work in jewelry shops or in department stores, or they may have their own establishments.

Formerly both the jewelry and watch manufacturing and repair trades were learned through apprenticeships. Now, however, the work is

learned principally in special technical schools. The Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, is one of the outstanding schools teaching all branches of jewelry work.

Among the institutions giving instruction in watchmaking are the Bradley Polytechnical Institute, Peoria, Illinois, and the Bowman Technical School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There are other schools of this kind, many of them located in the larger cities. School officials can help students to find the names and locations of such institutions.

One disadvantage in going into these fields is that there is little opportunity for promotion. Added pleasure from one's work and increased earnings come chiefly as a person develops his skills and as he learns to do intricate jobs accurately and quickly.

A beginner entering either of these fields may earn about \$25 a week. An experienced person working in a watch factory may earn as much as \$80 a week; and experienced watch repairmen may earn from \$50 to \$75 a week. Top salaries in the jewelry field range from \$60 to \$100 a week. Often in these vocations, when a person acquires the skill to command a higher salary, he establishes his own shop. Women have gone into this work in increasing numbers during recent years.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

The State Department will not take over control of our occupation duties in Germany this summer, as our government had planned. It is felt that the Army should remain in full charge of our zone there until world conditions are more settled.

## Study Guide

### Population

1. About how many people now live in the United States?
2. Give two reasons for our nation's rapid population growth in early days.
3. According to present estimates, approximately when will the United States population reach its peak? How large will it be then?
4. Give two reasons why the average age of the American people is increasing.
5. What population problem are the schools facing?
6. What are some of the ways in which population changes may affect the nation's business?
7. Is it certain that a slowing down of population growth will weaken our country's military strength?

### Discussion

What, in your opinion, are the most important results, either good or bad, to be expected of the population changes that are predicted by the Census Bureau?

### Military Needs

1. How does our present armed strength compare with that which we had at the wartime peak?
2. Why did the United States reduce the size of its military forces at the close of the war?
3. What has caused it to consider the need for increasing its armed strength?
4. Describe briefly the proposals recommended by President Truman as a part of an expanded military program.
5. Give the arguments of those citizens who think we do not need to expand our Army, Navy, and Air Force.
6. What reply is made by advocates of stronger armed forces?
7. What are some of the differences of opinion among people who are in favor of a larger military program for the United States?

### Discussion

1. Are you or are you not in favor of having the United States increase its armed strength at the present time? Give your reasons.
2. If you are in favor of such a program, what do you think is the first step that should be taken? Explain.

### Miscellaneous

1. What is the situation concerning Palestine now?
2. What proposal has the United States made with respect to Trieste? How is this suggestion expected to affect the political scene in Italy?
3. How long do experts believe it will be before atomic power can be used on a fairly large scale for industry?
4. Name three of the nation's top military leaders.
5. Why can it be said that the area in which the Navajo Indians live is overcrowded?

### Outside Reading

"Forecasts of the Population of the United States, 1945-1975," published by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1947. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price 45 cents.

"Will There Be War?" *Life*, March 29, 1948. America's effort to avoid war, and plans for winning if one occurs.

"We've Scuttled Our Air Defenses," by W. Stuart Symington, Secretary of the Air Force, *American*, February 1948.

"Twilight on the Navajo Trail," by Jim Marshall, *Collier's*, February 7, 1948.

"The People, A Study of the Navajos," by George I. Sanchez. A well-illustrated, 90-page booklet published by the U. S. Indian Service, March, 1948. Obtainable from the Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas. Price: to individuals, \$1.00; to schools and libraries, 75 cents.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) healthful; 2. (b) composure; 3. (a) friendly; 4. (a) temporary; 5. (c) daring; 6. (c) scolding and nagging; 7. (c) wavering; 8. (c) depth; 9. (a) prophecy.

## American Presidents - - James Buchanan

**T**HE state of Pennsylvania has produced many statesmen who have played important roles in our national life. But Buchanan has been the only native of the Keystone State ever to become President. He was born on a farm near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, in the year 1791.

When he became of age, Buchanan attended Dickinson College near his home in Pennsylvania. After completing his college course he took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar at the age of 21. He met with instant success in this profession, but his practice was interrupted for a time by service in the army during the War of 1812.

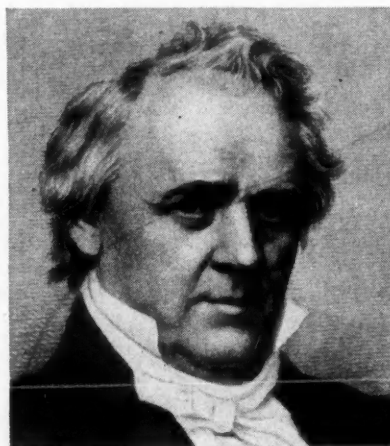
Because of a tragic incident in his youth, Buchanan remained a bachelor all his life. While still a young lawyer he became engaged to be married. But a trivial lover's quarrel caused the engagement to be broken just before the young lady went away on a trip. While away from home, she suddenly became ill and died before the quarrel could be adjusted.

In an effort to forget his grief, Buchanan then plunged into politics. His friendly nature and his ability as a public speaker soon brought him wide recognition. While still a young man he was elected to the state legislature and then to the U. S. Congress. In 1831 he accepted an appointment as American minister to Russia, a

position which aroused his interest in international affairs, and a few years later became Secretary of State in the cabinet of President Polk.

The Democratic party chose Buchanan as its candidate for President in 1856 mainly because he was a "middle-of-the-roader." He came from a northern state but his views on slavery were acceptable to many southerners. It was hoped that he would be able to conciliate the rival forces which were dividing the nation.

The four years of Buchanan's term were crowded with historic events. Three new states were admitted to the Union—Minnesota, Oregon, and Kan-



**JAMES BUCHANAN**, fifteenth President

sas. The first oil well was drilled in Pennsylvania. In 1858 the laying of the Atlantic cable was completed.

But other occurrences darkened the national scene. The controversy over slavery was rapidly becoming more intense and bitter. Simply naming some of the happenings of these years shows the trend of the time—the Dred Scott decision in 1857, the Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859, and the secession of South Carolina in 1860.

In the midst of these events, which were rapidly driving the nation toward civil war, Buchanan was unable to take decisive action. His compromising attitude pleased neither the North nor the South and failed to stem the rising tide of sectional bitterness. He was not renominated by his own party, and on March 4, 1861, turned over the reins of power to Abraham Lincoln, the first President elected by the new Republican party.

Had Buchanan become President in calmer times he might have made a good, if not a brilliant, record. He was a man of considerable ability and long experience in public affairs. But he did not possess the strength and influence needed to avert the "irrepressible conflict," as the Civil War has been called. Perhaps no man could have prevented the tragic struggle which was to break out soon.